Rajya Sabha

Monday, the 16th December, 1985/25th Agrahayana, 1907 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members may be aware, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Governor-General of our friendly country, Mauritius, is no more. A frequent visiter to this country, Sir Ramgoolam has been a great friend of India.

Sir Ramgoolam, born in September, 1900, in Mauritius, dominated the political scene of his country at almost all levels—first as Chief Minister and then Prime Minister for most of his country's years of independence. He was made the Governor-General in January, 1984. He was Chairman of the Organisation of African Unity in 1976-77 and he won the U. N. prize for outstanding achievements in the field of human rights in 1973. In the year 1984, he was awarded the Nehru Peace Prize.

One of the noblest of man has passed away. He was a man of profound culture. He was a valiant freedom fighter and had become a legend in his life time. Sir Ramgoolam had deep feelings for our country and our people and for all that India stood for. It is difficult to find adequate words of expression of ones regard and admiration for his numerous qualities of head and heart. We respected him and loved him. He was ardent and sincere in fostering and strengthening the friendly ties between our two countries. We is this House deeply mourn with the people of Mauritius the lose of their great leader and extend our heartfelt and sincere sympathies and condolences to the members of the bereaved family as well as the people of Mauritius.

I request Members to rise in their places and observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memory of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam.

(Hon'ble Members stood in silence for one minute).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Survey for Oil and Gas in the Cambay Basin

*381. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and West Germany have recently conducted a joint survey to identify oil and gas in the Cambay Basin of Gujarat;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for conducting this survey;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided to start drilling operation on the basis of this survey conducted jointly by India and West Gemany; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[**The Deputy Chairman** in the Chair].

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Madam Deputy Chairman, may I know from the Minister whether he is aware that there was a news item, some time back that India and West Germany have recently conducted a joint survey to identify oil and gas in the Cambay Basin of Gujarat? This news item was published in most of the newspapers and it was not denied either by the O.N.G.C. or by the Petroleum Ministry. So, may I know whether he is aware of this news item or not?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Madam Deputy Chairman, I am not aware of the news item.

*382. [*The question (Shri Nand Kishore Bhatt) was absent. For answer,* vide *col.* 27-29 infra.]